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Market Brief

Indirect Imports Into Taiwan

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Indirect Imports Into Taiwan

Direct imports of PRC products are currently banned for political reasons, although unreported importing is supposedly substantial. Indirect imports from the PRC are mainly raw materials and semi-finished products, such as some vegetable seeds and potato starch. Currently, there are 10,223 agricultural/industrial product items listed in the “Customs Import Tariff and Classification of Import & Export Commodities,” published jointly by the Taiwan Directorate-General of Customs (TDGC) and the Board of Foreign Trade (BOFT). Fifty-four percent (54%) of these products are allowed entry from the PRC via a third territory. Only 2,058 of these items are food or agricultural products, of which 19% can be imported from third territories. Approximately 70% of these indirect imports come through Hong Kong. There are no special tariff rates involved for indirect imports.

Direct imports of raw materials or semi-finished products for bonded factories or processing facilities inside export processing zones are allowed entry directly from the PRC, provided these facilities obtain approval from the Taiwan authorities in advance. The finished products must be exported directly from these bonded factories and zones, and can not be sold in the domestic market.

The list of indirect imports changes periodically. Therefore, we suggest suppliers and importers confirm with the BOFT of the below, prior to shipment:

2nd Division, The First Department
Board of Foreign Trade
1 Hukou Street
Taipei, Taiwan
Tel: (886-2) 2397-7201; Fax: (886-2) 2397-0522

End report